



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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News Media Contact:
Clyde Ensslin (202) 418-0506

FCC Initiates Rulemaking to Evaluate Access to Multiple Dwelling Units for Video Providers

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that seeks comment on issues relating to the use of exclusive contracts for the provision of video services to multiple dwelling units (“MDUs”) or other real estate developments.

With this proceeding, the Commission is taking another step to foster greater competition in the market for the delivery of multichannel video programming. In this *Notice*, the Commission seeks comment on the use of exclusive contracts in the MDU video provider marketplace and the impact of their use on the federal goals of enhanced multichannel video competition and accelerated broadband deployment. Specifically:

- The *Notice* seeks comment on the current environment for service providers attempting to obtain access to MDUs or other real estate developments, including the use of exclusive contracts.
- The *Notice* seeks comment on the impact of exclusive contracts on consumer choice and video competition, and whether the use of exclusive contracts reduces the likelihood of competitive entry.
- The *Notice* tentatively concludes that the Commission has authority to regulate exclusive contracts for the provision of video services to MDUs or other real estate developments where it finds that such contracts may impede competition and impair deployment of those services.
- Finally, the *Notice* seeks comment on what specific steps the Commission should take to ensure that exclusive contracts do not unreasonably impede competitive video entry.

Action by the Commission, March 22, 2007, by *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FCC 07-32). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell. Separate statements issued by Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell.

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Docket 07-51
Media Bureau Contacts: Holly Saurer (202) 418-2120

John Norton (202) 418-2120